



**City of Miami Beach
Office of Mayor David Dermer**

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**MIAMI BEACH MAYOR DAVID DERMER URGES SUPPORT AND DONATIONS
FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

(Miami Beach, FL) - March 16, 2005 - In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Miami Beach Mayor David Dermer is calling on the people of Miami Beach and the larger South Florida community to lend a helping hand to the victims of the storm. On Monday morning, Hurricane Katrina struck the upper Gulf region, creating a path of destruction and instant poverty across Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"Our friends in the Gulf region are in dire straits and they desperately need our help. The Miami Beach community recognizes the devastating effects that this type of storm can have, and it is incumbent upon all of us to rise to the occasion and assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina," Dermer said.

"The level of poverty and need is staggering right now, and the best way we can immediately help the situation is through monetary donations to the United Way and Red Cross," continued the Mayor. "I urge the people of Miami Beach to keep the victims of Hurricane Katrina in their thoughts and prayers at this difficult time and to do their part to assist in the recovery process."

To assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina through the United Way organization, please call 1-800-272-4630 or visit national.unitedway.org. To make a direct donation to the American Red Cross, call 1-800-HELP-NOW, or visit www.redcross.org. A comprehensive list of further charitable organizations and important information on avoiding charity fraud can be found on the Federal Emergency Management Association's website: <http://www.fema.gov/press/2005/katrinadonations.shtm>.

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